

Camp Pendleton, July 24th, 1975

From : The Chairman of the Parish Council
Area #8; Tent # 33A
Camp Pendleton; CA. 92055

To : HIS EXCELLENCY JOHN J. WARD
Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese
LOS ANGELES.

Subject : Suggestions about the Resettlement of
the Vietnamese Refugees.

His EXCELLENCY,

We representatives of all the Catholic families and even those who sympathize with Catholicism in Camp Pendleton, sincerely offer you our great admiration and deep gratitude for having come here on July 15th, 1975 to celebrate the Holy Mass and to visit, comfort and encourage us. This fact has really fortified our Faith towards God and the Blessed Mother Mary and satisfied our long expectation since our arrival in the U.S. ,the "blessed land.
His EXCELLENCY,

Believing in your admirable charity, today we would like to express to you our deepest expectations :

As you know, we Asians consider the family as the social life basic. Traditionally, the family members live with our own relatives of at least four consecutive generations, we seldom separate one from another . Therefore some refugees want to return to Vietnam only because they cannot take their family together with them here. Unfortunately when we left our beloved country to a great majority of us, except for some could bring nothing with us. Now a small percentage of the refugees have left the Camp with their sponsors because they are engineers, physicians, professors, or those who worked for the American troops in the Vietnam during some past years. The rest are those refugees who :

Have neither professional occupation nor workmanship because the long-lasting war in our country pushed almost all of the manpower into the Armed Forces.

Have no family chiefs because these were killed at the battlefield, or could not escape from Vietnam on time.

Are in families that have a lot of children plus grandparents, uncles, aunts etc ...

Are rustic peasants and fishermen who know no English at all.

Are those who had previously been influenced by the French culture and cannot yet adapt themselves to the American one.

Our determination to go out of our country aims to defend our Catholic Ideal for which over 100,000 ancestors of ours had sacrificed their own lives. When arriving in Camp Pendleton, many other religious organizations warmly welcome us and were willing to sponsor us despite of the number of our family members but we resolutely refused because we want to be loyal to our Faith. It is a pity that U.S.C.C. could not get out big families sponsored and proposes now to separate them into many parts. Some refugee women who left the camp with their sponsors said that while their husbands went to work and their children were at school, their American neighbors came to see them, but they could not express what they wanted to say, so they were very sad! Moreover, they still have to help their sponsors in housekeeping and homework, but everything come to a stand-still because of the difference in languages. In an America parish church when attending the Mass, we can not understand the prayer, the Gospel and the sermon of the Priest, how can our Faith increase and how can we help our children develop their trust and love towards the Lord! In a family Vietnamese family, the husband could go to work whereas the wife stays home taking care of their children and doing their homeworks, and very often she may increase their family income by needlework.

Therefore, we would like His Excellency to help us live in small communities of about 30 to 40 families that belong to the local parishes in the surroundings of the cities. In these communities, we want to have a Vietnamese priest moving from one community to another to teach us Catholic Doctrine. At the same time, he can help us get accustomed to the American Civilization so that we won't feel lonely in this country any longer. Also there, we can get trained in professions and practice handicraft to increase our family incomes.

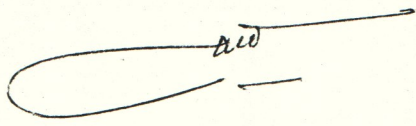
Now, we dare not yet conceive how much a small community will be formed because it depends on You and the U.S. Bishop Conference. However, when it is formed, we are ready to provide low cost workers because among us there are carpenters, masons, plumbers, electricians etc... Besides, we are also willing to reimburse the construction expenses gradually as soon as we get a steady job.

Believing in the well known and charity of the American R-Catholic church, we hope our above mentioned small community will be realized very soon in order to help us keep up pur Catholic Faith and ~~adpt~~ adapt ourselves to the American civilisation.

Please pray for us !

Yours respectfully

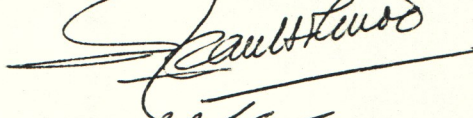

For the Parish Council

- 1- M^r Dominique Lương Ngọc Chiêu, Chairman 
2- M^r Joseph NGUYEN-VAN-TAI, DEPUTY Tu
3- M^r NGUYEN NGOC TRAC, JOSEPH, SECRETARY Trac

For the Union of the Catholic Mothers

- 1- Mrs. Marie Agnès HỒ THỊ CỬU - President hoocuu
2- Mrs. TERESA VŨ-thị-Tuyết, Vice-President Thuyet
3- Mrs. Teresa NG[~] thị Nhi, Secretary Nhi

For the sympathisants to the Catholicism

- 1- M^r Paul TRAN. HUU. PHUOC, Professor. 
2- Mr Joseph TRAN. CONG. CHINH, LAWYER 
3- M^r Etienne NGUYỄN VĂN BÁCH, Pharmacist Bach